



Safe Environment for Health Care

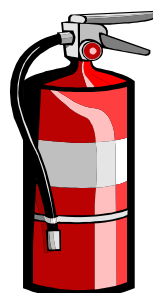
Volume 8, 2003

The Environment of Care (EC) requires programs for seven functions: safety, fire protection, security, hazardous materials & wastes, medical equipment, utility, and emergency preparedness. Everyone has responsibility for an aspect of the EC programs. To assess this, surveyors will ask you to describe or demonstrate how you reduce and report safety risks at work?

Remember to “RACE” in case of a fire.

Emergency phone numbers

R emove	...anyone from danger
A ctivate	...the fire alarm
C onfine	...the fire
E vacuate, Extinguish	...the area



Fire/Security	911
Code Blue	111
STAT Page	112
Engineering	108

Can you answer the following questions?

- **Where are your fire alarm pull stations, extinguishers & two evacuation routes for your work area?**
- **What are your responsibilities if you have to evacuate the work area?**
- **Who turns off oxygen in an emergency?** Clinical staff shuts the valve to the patient or treatment room in the rescue phase of the fire response.

Do you handle a Hazardous Material or Waste (HMW)? HMW are chemical and/or radiological agents. HMW found in patient care areas include hazardous drugs, specimen preservatives, some laboratory reagents and disinfectants. Job-Specific training and personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for HMW. Common PPE include gloves, gowns, face shields, and in some cases, respirators or lead-shield aprons.

NOTE: Biohazards /infection control information is available at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/hes/>

Can you describe the risks and precautions you take if you handle HMW? If not, do you know where to get help? First, check with your supervisor or call Hospital Safety on 6-5281. Several NIH web sites describe resources for managing HMW. Key search words: Occupational Safety, Chemical Safety, Hazard Communication, Waste Management, and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Information on radiation safety for clinical workers is available at <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/ds/rsb/clinical.html>. Remember, you have the obligation and “Right to Know” about HMW.

To ask questions of the Clinical Center Core group email: askCCJCAHO@cc.nih.gov

How do you respond to a spill involving a HMW? Agent-specific procedures and spill kits for incidental spills are in your departmental procedures. For example, Nursing & Pharmacy have procedures for hazardous drug spill. In general, (a) confine the spill (b) dial 911 and (c) wash if you have direct contact w/contaminant. If exposed or injured, alert your supervisor and go to OMS, 10/6C300. *see other side →*

What equipment risks (job and site specific) apply to your job? Can you describe emergency steps including any clinical interventions that you would take if the equipment and/or electrical power failed? Do you know safeguards for health care workers and patients if you enter a MRI suite? Check http://intranet.nmrh.nih.gov/safety_training.htm for a quick tutorial on magnet imaging safety or call radiology on 6-7700.

Do you know who to call for emergency help? Stickers with emergency numbers and procedures are available from CC Safety (6-5281) and in the CC Emergency Manual that is available at <http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/od/emergencyplan>.

What security measures are required for your work? Electronic passwords are needed for access to sensitive data. Physical barriers prevent theft and limit entry to sensitive areas (e.g., operating room, pharmacy, behavior health). Shred-It boxes are available for confidential paper wastes.

What does the best-dressed employee wear? Their NIH ID badge!

Can you recall an EC incident when you filed an occurrence report or need information on safety or survey results? The CC conducts surveys and monitors incident reports as part of risk reduction and improvement activities. Call Safety on 6-5281 for a copy of the safety surveys. CC Safety Committee's minutes and members, another resource for you, are available at <http://www.cc.nih.gov/ccs/safety/index.html>.

Can you describe one thing in the Environment of Care that improved in 2002?
For questions call the Clinical Center Safety Officer – Michele Evans 6-2581

Emergency Management in the CC

As a result of 9/11/01, JCAHO revised requirements for emergency management. In response, we have a new (2002) CC Emergency Manual that is available at <http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/od/emergencyplan>. The manual is a framework for departments to build on and develop their own plans as well as source of how you should deal with emergencies.



Are you familiar with your department's emergency procedures? Check with your department for specific instructions related to emergency procedures.

Do you know how to use the red phones for backup communications? New dialing instructions are located on page EL2-3 of the NIH phone book.

COMING Attraction! A CC Emergency Procedures flip chart. The flip chart contains both basic and advanced emergency procedures in the CC. It contains an expanded section on managing communications during all types of emergencies in addition to the basics such as response to a fire. The flip chart should be posted where it

To ask questions of the Clinical Center Core group email: askCCJCAHO@cc.nih.gov

will be readily available during the first minutes of an emergency. Look for the flip charts in the fall and take a few minutes to become familiar with the information. In the interim, check the new manual available at the web site listed above or call the safety office on 6-5281